

THE CALEDONIAN.

Farm, Garden and Kitchen.

What One Cow Did.

Branson of Miami Co., tells the editor of the Miami (Ohio) Union, of the performance of a cow, as follows: He purchased her March 19th, 1866; she was very poor, and had the hollow horn—having been wintered on damaged straw. On the 23rd of March, 1866, she had a calf, and will probably have another about the middle of September next. From the time he bought her to the present, she has probably been the best fed cow in Miami county.

Now for a year's product: From the 10th of April, 1866, to April 9th, 1867, she was milked daily at intervals of about 12 hours, and gave a daily average of 54 gallons of milk—rather over than under, from which was made 410 lbs. of butter, 310 lbs. of which were sold for \$20.67; 78 lbs. were used at home. Besides that two cents had as much new milk as they would lap up morning and evening, and cream was used for coffee twice sure, but generally three times a day; and then use all the cream and new milk that she wishes about her cookery. She never spurs it for the sake of making butter to sell, as our object in keeping a cow is to have plenty of cream and butter for our own use.

Muck on Sandy Soils.

Prof. Dana in his excellent treatise on swamp muck, affirms that the best grounds for cultivation are light sandy soils; as these, by their porousness, give free access to the powerful effects of air. The manure applied to them will find the earliest and most perfect results. Speaking of the value of swamp muck in bringing sandy soils into a state of the highest fertility, he says:

The power of fertility which exist in the silicates of soil is unlimited. An improved agriculture must depend upon the skill with which this power is brought into action. It can be done only by the conjunction of salts, lime, muck and plants. Barren sands are worthless, a peat bog is better; but a practical illustration of the principles which have been maintained, is afforded by every sandy knoll made fertile by spreading swamp muck upon it. This is giving lime to silicates. The very act of exposure of this swamp muck has caused an evolution of carbonic acid gas; that decomposes the silicates of potash in the sand; that potash converts the insoluble into soluble manure, and lo! a crop. That growing power adds its power to the lime. If all the long series of experiments under Von Vogt, in Germany, are to be believed, confirmed as they are by repeated trials by our own agriculturists, it is not to be doubted, that every inch of every sand knoll, on every farm, may be changed into a soil in 13 years, of half that number of inches of good mould.

That the cause of fertility is derived from the decomposing power of the lime and plants, is evident from the fact, that mere atmospheric exposure of rock, enriches all soil lying near and around them. It has been thought among the inexplicable mysteries, that the soil under an old stone wall is richer than that a little distance from it. Independent of its roller action, which has compressed the soil and prevented the aerial escape of its gases, consider that the potash washed out of the wall has done this, and the mystery disappears. The agents to hasten this natural production of alkali, are salts and lime. The abundance of this has already been pointed out in past manure. Next to this, dry crops ploughed in: no matter how scanty, the volume constantly will increase, and can supply the place of swamp muck. Of all soils to be cultivated, or to be restored, none are preferable to the sandy, light soils. By their porousness, free access is given to the powerful effects of the air. They are naturally in that state, that by trenching, draining, and subsoil ploughing are reducing the stiffer lands of England. Manure may as well be thrown into water, as on land underlain by water. Drain this, and no matter if the upper soil be almost quicksand, manure will convert it into fertile, arable land. The thin covering of mould, scarcely an inch in thickness, the product of a century, may be imitated by studying the laws of its formation. This is the power of "nature's practice hand," man has long been her journeyman, and now, guided by science, the farmer becomes the master-workman, and may produce in one year quite as much as the apprentice made in seven.

The theory of drainage is a NUTSHELL.—The draining away of superabundant water, especially upon stiff soils, has always been the chief difficulty in English agriculture. Hitherto the means employed for getting rid of it were imperfect. Now, however, the problem is completely solved. "Take this flower-pot," said the president of a meeting in France, lately: "what is the meaning of this small hole at the bottom? To repel the water. And why to repel the water? Because it gives life or death; life when it is made only to pass through the bed of earth, for it leaves with the soil its productive principles, and renders soluble the nutritive portions that it nourish the plant; death, on the other hand, when it retards in the pot, for it soon becomes putrid, and the roots and, and also prevents new water from penetrating." The theory of drainage is exactly described in this figure—*Rural Economy of England, Scotland and Ireland.*

The Colored Farmers in Ohio.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, who has just visited the colored settlements of Runley and Carthage, Ohio, emphatically contradicts the report that the blacks are idle and shiftless. He says:

In thirteen days' travel I have visited I know not how many colored farmers' homes, have seen their lands and possessions, have listened to their simple tales of early struggles and after success, have eaten at their tables, slept in their beds, and knelt with them round what, after the pious fashion of white folks, they call the family altar; and I have not smelled whisky or any other vile smell, heard an oath, or a word of rudeness and obscenity, eaten off a dirty tablecloth, or witnessed a single case of poverty or want. My bedroom has often been carpeted, but the floor has been clean; I have sometimes, at the first glance of the day, looked at a nicely whitewashed ceiling; as often, perhaps, at the big hewed beams, rafters and shingle, all in sight, and all of honest oak, unsullied by either paint or cobwebs; and at other times I have interested myself, during the first few minutes of the day, by noticing the primitive frescoes of my chamber walls, done in an Egyptian style, with day tempered with straw.

I was told that the colored settlers were shiftless, and but barely lived by such culture as they gave their farms. I have found that the majority more than live by the culture of their farms, that in all years of fair crops they increase in worldly gear and the good of life. I was prepared to find them in most cases miserably poor. I found them in almost all cases blessed with a sufficiency, in many cases with abundance. I was told they lived from hand to mouth. I have found many of their smoke-houses rejoicing in plenty, and their barns bursting with abundance. I was told by men (mark it!) not paying a dollar a year for the support of schools or any other indispensable adjunct of civilization, that it would be a burning shame for niggers to vote; and I found these niggers—they were pale-faced, it is true, rather than black—paying \$50, \$100, \$150, and, in one case, \$300 a year taxes for the support of men and institutions that systematically ignore their victims after bleeding them, and for the payment of a debt their patrons and their oppressors brought about. I should not have been surprised to find, knowing the disadvantages and proscription under which they have lived and suffered, that their children were neglected, ignorant and rude. I found them as clean and tidy as any children of corresponding circumstances, and certainly better behaved, docile and more obedient to their parents than the average of American children of corresponding age.

Paris consumes, as butcher's meat, an average of two hundred hogs per month. This meat is sold only for what it is, viz.: horseshoes. It is eaten consciously and because it is palatable and nutritious. It takes all the forms of other meats, such as steaks, chops, sirloins, cutlets, rumps, ribs and so forth, and is subjected to a similar variety of culinary treatment.

Last Wednesday at Chillicothe, Ohio, a young man named Hunter was standing in front of a saloon with several companions, all very drunk, when Hunter's mother came to the party and implored her son to accompany her home. Suddenly he seemed seized with a frenzy, rushed into the street, and picking up a heavy stone threw it into the group. The fatal missile struck his mother on the temple. She sank to the earth and died in ten minutes.

Many of the Farmers of Niagara county have contracted to deliver the new crops of amber wheat to the Lockport millers, at two dollars per bushel.

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